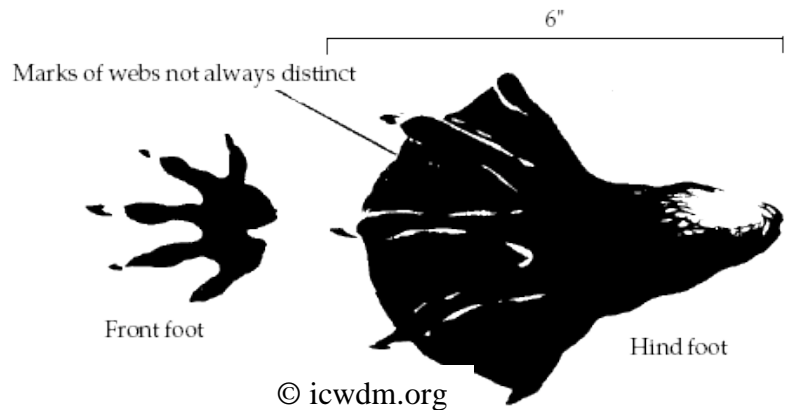


Beavers



The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provides advice on urban wildlife issues, but does not provide nuisance beaver control.

- For more information on hunting and trapping beavers:

[Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#)

- Individual trees can be protected with a 30 inch tall wire enclosure.

Biological Information

Distribution : widespread throughout north central Louisiana, lives in every north American state and Canadian Province

Habitat: wooded rivers, streams, lakes, swamps, backwaters.

Appearance: humped back, wide flat tail, average adult weight is 33 pounds, 35-45 inches, 20 teeth, webbed feet, castor glands on the abdomen, which produces oil that the beaver rubs into its fur to waterproof it, ears and nose has valves which close when submerged, has only a single lower body opening called cloaca (similar to birds and reptiles)

Food habits: strictly vegetarian, eats cambium layer of many woody plants, such as sweetgum, yellow poplar, and willow

Habits: builds dams, constructs conical shaped lodging with sticks and mud above waterline, mark their territory with castor oil and mounds of mud and debris, very territorial, can hold breath for 12-15 minutes and travel a mile underwater

Reproduction: sexually mature at 2 years, breeds in winter or early spring, gestation is 115-120 days, average litter is 3, young stay with parents for 2 years

Controls: beavers are prey to bobcats, bears, coyotes; young are prey to eagle and owls as well

Values: alter the habitat a great deal, dams result in flooding of lowlands, which provides a better habitat for muskrats, many fish, and waterfowl; mink and otter hunt regularly around beaver dams; low disease potential